REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

In the Office Action under reply, U.S. Patent 5,838,383 (Chimoto) was relied upon to reject all the claims. Claims 1-2, 7-9, 13-14 and 19-21 were rejected as allegedly obvious in view of Chimoto. Chimoto was combined with U.S. Patent 6,198,479 (Humpleman) to reject claims 6 and 18; and Chimoto was combined with U.S. Patent 6,469,742 (Trovato) to reject claims 10-12 and 22-25. No claims are allowed.

From the stated reasons for rejection, it appears Applicants' claims are being interpreted in a manner inconsistent with the words of the claims and descriptions set out in the specification. In order to obviate such a misinterpretation, independent claims 1 and 13 are amended to point out that the host processing block, which outputs commands to the digital signal processing blocks, outputs "high layer" commands that "instruct[] said digital signal processing block to perform the predetermined function assigned to said respective digital signal processing block," whereupon that high layer command is interpreted and executed by the digital signal processing block "to produce hardware control instructions to operate said cooperating hardware in accordance with said high layer command."

High layer commands are described in the specification; and it is respectfully submitted that this term of art is understood to mean a command that is more of an abstraction such that, when interpreted by, for example, a hardware operating block (e.g., a driver), the hardware operating block performs the function uniquely assigned to that block. That is, the high layer command need not specify the particular functionality that is performed by the hardware operating block, but, rather, merely need instruct that block to operate. Consequently, hardware

operating blocks may be easily replaced without requiring large-scale rewriting of the

programming and software of the host processing block that issues the high layer commands.

Chimoto describes a multimedia television receiver in which a CPU 313 communicates

with several modules over a bus 302 to supply prescribed parameters to those various modules.

Once these parameters are set in the modules, the modules can receive and process broadcast

satellite signals (see column 9, lines 27-33 of Chimoto). There is no suggestion, however, that

the "prescribed parameters" are the high layer commands recited by Applicants' claims 1 and 13.

Indeed, it would appear that, by sending "prescribed parameters" to the modules, Chimoto's CPU

sends low layer, detailed instructions, rather than high layer commands, to the modules.

Moreover, these "prescribed parameters" appear to be hardware dependent, that is, the specific

parameters that are supplied from Chimoto's CPU clearly will change with the module to which

those parameters are sent.

In contradistinction to Chimoto, Applicants' claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

> "a host processing block... outputting to a respective digital signal processing
> block a high layer command not dependent on hardware structure and not on a
> real time basis, said high layer command instructing said digital signal processing
> block to perform the predetermined function assigned to said respective digital
> signal processing block;
>   ***
> wherein said processing unit of each of said digital signal processing blocks
> interprets and executes said high layer command to produce hardware control
> functions to operate said cooperating hardware..."

It is respectfully submitted, the "prescribed parameters" supplied by Chimoto's CPU 313

are not the "high layer commands" outputted by Applicants' claimed host processing block.

Furthermore, it is urged that Chimoto's modules, which the Office Action interprets as

corresponding to Applicants' claimed digital signal processing blocks, do not interpret and

execute a high layer command coming from CPU 313. Indeed, it is submitted that Chimoto's

modules, once set with the prescribed parameters, have no need to interpret commands from

CPU 313 because those modules are free to operate in accordance with those parameters that

have been set without further commands from the CPU.

In view of this significant difference between Applicants' claim 1 and the teachings of

Chimoto, the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 as being obvious is respectfully solicited.

Claim 13 is directed to the method performed by the apparatus of claim 1. The method of

claim 13 includes the steps of:

> "outputting and transferring to a respective digital signal processing block... a
> high layer command not dependent on hardware structure and not on a real time
> basis, said high layer command instructing said digital signal processing block to
> perform the predetermined function assigned to said respective digital signal
> processing block;
>   ***
> wherein said processing unit of each of said digital signal processing blocks
> interprets and executes said high layer command to produce hardware control
> instructions to operate said cooperating hardware."

As mentioned above in connection with claim 1, Chimoto fails to disclose these features.

Accordingly, claim 13 is patentably distinct over Chimoto for the very same reasons discussed

with respect to claim 1.

In applying Chimoto to the claims, the Examiner agreed that this reference "is silent as to

the type of command that is sent being high layer" (see page 5, first full paragraph of the Office

Action). But, the Examiner submits "that it is notoriously well-known in the art to use high layer

commands... by obviating the need for specialized drivers to communicate with different

components." However, as discussed above, it is believed that Chimoto contradicts this

notoriety. Chimoto does not use high layer commands and, moreover, teaches away from such

use. The "setting of prescribed parameters" in Chimoto's modules is quite the opposite of

sending high layer commands to those modules.

Humpleman was relied upon for describing a script of hypertext. Humpleman fails to cure the aforenoted deficiency in Chimoto.

Trovato was relied upon for describing the installation of software to control modules that might be added or substituted in a system. But, Trovato is notably silent with respect to Applicants' claimed high layer commands and the functions performed by those high layer commands.

Accordingly, even if Chimoto is complemented by Humpleman and Trovato, the resultant combination still would not enable one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use Applicants' claimed invention.

Since dependent claims 2, 6-12, 14 and 18-25 all depend from a respective one of Applicants' independent claims, and thus include all of the recitations found in their respective independent claim, it follows that these dependent claims are patentably distinct over Chimoto, taken alone or in combination with Humpleman and/or Trovato for those reasons discussed above.

For the foregoing reasons, the withdrawal of the rejections of all the claims and an indication of the allowance of the present application are respectfully solicited.
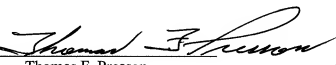
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-2, 6-14, and 18-25 are in allowable form; and this application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By _____
    Thomas F. Presson
    Reg. No. 41,442
    (212) 588-0800